

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1546 without my signature.

This bill circumvents the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) by allowing college districts to concurrently award AA degrees and high school diplomas, without requiring students to pass the CAHSEE. I must reject such a change in policy. If a high school diploma is to mean anything, then those who earn diplomas must demonstrate their mastery of a common core of knowledge by passing an exam explicitly designed to test that mastery: the CAHSEE.

In my education trailer bill of last year, I proposed to make it absolutely clear that community colleges do not have the authority to grant high school diplomas without requiring students to pass the CAHSEE. This bill would move us in precisely the opposite direction.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger